

A Cabaret Evening to benefit **Esprit Orchestra**  
featuring the North American Premiere of

# **September**

The Music of Kurt Weill

# **Songs**

a film by **Rhombus Media Inc.**  
directed by **Larry Weinstein**

Friday, January 20, 1995  
**The Opera House**

# **September Songs**

## **The Music of Kurt Weill**

A Cabaret Evening to Benefit Esprit Orchestra

Friday, January 20, 1995 • 8:00 p.m.

The Opera House

### **Featuring**

the North American premiere of  
*September Songs: The Music of Kurt Weill*  
a film by Rhombus Media directed by Larry Weinstein

and Performances by

**Judith Lander • Mary Margaret O'Hara**  
**Joseph Macerollo • Scott Irvine**  
**Members of Esprit Orchestra**

### **Programme**

Introduced by Glen Baxter

Arts and Entertainment Reporter CityTV

8:00 p.m.    buffet

8:35 p.m.    Judith Lander (vocalist)  
Bruce Harvey (piano) • Bob Hewus (acoustic bass)

*Pirate Jenny • Bilbao Song*  
*Mandelay Song • Lonely House*

9:00 p.m.    *September Songs: The Music of Kurt Weill*

10:30 p.m.  
Mary Margaret O'Hara (vocalist)  
Members of Esprit Orchestra  
Joseph Macerollo (accordion)  
Scott Irvine (tuba)  
Blair Mackay (percussion)  
Rusty McCarthy (guitar)

## ***September Songs: The Music of Kurt Weill***

Producers:	Niv Fichman and Larry Weinstein
Director:	Larry Weinstein
Writers:	David Mortin and Larry Weinstein
Cinematographer:	Horst Zeidler
Production Designer:	Michael Levine
Assistant Production Design:	Marian Wihak
Editor:	David New
Music Supervisor:	Hal Willner
Music:	Kurt Weill
Co-production with:	ZDF German Television Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Telefilm Canada RTP Portugal

This tribute to the life and music of Kurt Weill features Lou Reed, Teresa Stratas, Elvis Costello and the Brodsky String Quartet, Betty Carter, PJ Harvey, Nick Cave, William S. Burroughs, Charlie Haden, the Persuasions and a host of others performing many of the composer's most celebrated songs, including *Mack the Knife*, *September Song* and *Alabama Song*. Set in a turn-of-the-century warehouse, the lavish design echos many of the themes of Weill's works. From the steely austerity of a 1930's factory floor to the glittering spectacle of a Broadway musical stage, each performance reflects the magic of the music and captures Weill's creative spirit.

### **Judith Lander**

Judith Lander is both a singer and songwriter. She has had a successful stage career in Canada and the United States, playing a starring role in the first productions of *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well* and *Living in Paris* and making frequent appearances on French and English network television. In Boston she garnered critical acclaim for her starring roles in several Jacques Brel and Kurt Weill shows. Lander appeared with Jacques Brel at Carnegie Hall and moved on to Broadway where, working with Lotte Lenya, she starred in Kurt Weill's *Berlin to Broadway*. Inspired by Brel and Weill, Judith turned her talents to creating music for dance.

While in New York, Lander began a long-term collaboration with choreographer Lynne Taylor-Corbett (*Footloose*) which resulted in such critically acclaimed works as *Where We Are Now*, *Diary* and *Spy*. Judith

returned to Toronto to star in the hit musical *I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking it on the Road*. Most recently she appeared in cabaret, performing Weill, Brel and her own music.

Lander has worked collaboratively with such leading Canadian artists as Karen Kain, Hagood Hardy, Fred Penner and Toller Cranston and has starred with Jack Weston and Kevin Gray (*Miss Saigon*) in the Off Broadway production *The Baker's Wife*. Future projects include further cabaret performances and a film version of *Triad*, a ballet collaboration with Patti Caplette of the Royal Winnipeg ballet starring Evelyn Hart and directed by Barbara Willis Sweete of Rhombus media. Lander's latest project, *Cabaret Divas*, also stars Beth Ann Cole and Kathy Michael McGlynn.

## **Mary Margaret O'Hara**

Mary Margaret O'Hara is a musician, artist and actress. A busy artist, O'Hara performs live in clubs, records, acts in film and on the stage, and has composed for film. A graduate of the Ontario College of Art, she has also worked as a graphic artist.

Last year she was featured in David Widdicombe's play *Wake* at the Factory Theatre, and her recordings include the CD *Miss America*. O'Hara can often be heard live at the New York club Fez, and on the last Monday of each month can be heard performing with several other Toronto artists at the Squeeze Club on Queen Street. Her next performances there are January 31 and Valentine's Day.

## Rhombus Media Inc.

Recognized around the world, Rhombus Media Inc. is Canada's leading producer of films and television programs on the performing arts.

Rhombus productions have received many honours including Emmys for *Le Dortoir*, *Pictures on the Edge* and *Concerto!*; an Academy Award nomination for *Making Overtures*; Grammy and Primetime Emmy nominations for *Canadian Brass: Home Movies* and *All that Bach*; and dozens of awards at festivals in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Toronto, Banff, Cannes, Sydney and others.

Rhombus was formed in 1979 by Barbara Willis Sweete and Niv Fichman. Larry Weinstein joined soon after and the trio has since produced over 50 films including *Ravel*; *For the Whales*; *Prokofiev by Two* and *My War Years: Arnold Schönberg*.

Besides *September Songs: The Music of Kurt Weill*, recently completed projects include *The Sorceress: Kiri Te Kanawa*, a baroque opera fantasy, and *Thirty-Two Shorts About Glenn Gould*, winner of four 1993 Genie Awards (including Best Motion Picture).

Productions currently underway include *The Velvet Gentleman*, an innovative dance special bringing together the music of Erik Satie and the evocative choreography of Cirque du Soleil's Debra Brown. It features prima ballerina Veronica Tennant, Stratford star Nicholas Pennell and a cast of dancers from the Cirque du Soleil.

## Esprit Orchestra

Esprit Orchestra is Canada's only orchestra devoted exclusively to new music. It was founded in 1983 by Alex Pauk, who continues as the orchestra's Music Director and Conductor. Esprit has a core of 45 musicians with the special skills needed to perform contemporary orchestral music. Guest artists have included Maureen Forrester, Desmond Hoebig, Jon Kimura Parker and Gary Relyea.

Dedicated to the development of a Canadian musical literature, Esprit commissions and premieres new works each year and facilitates continued public access to these works through repeat performances, radio broadcasts and recordings. Esprit has commissioned over 30 new works by leading Canadian composers such as Harry Somers, John Rea and R. Murray Schafer.

Committed as well to setting new, Canadian music within an international context, Esprit has performed the Canadian premieres of works by such composers as Toru Takemitsu, John Adams and Krzysztof Penderecki.

In March 1991, Esprit released its first CD of all-Canadian music, *Esprit Orchestra* (CBC SMCD5101). A second all-Canadian CD was released in January 1994, *Iridescence* (CBC SMCD5132). A third disc will be recorded this coming spring.

In 1990 Esprit was awarded Socan's Award of Merit in recognition of the orchestra's imaginative programming of contemporary music, and for its commitment to Esprit, Suncor Inc. received two Financial Post Awards for Business and the Arts.

### **Esprit Orchestra**

**Alex Pauk**  
**Music Director and Conductor**

#### **Board of Directors 1994-95**

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Ellen Nichols  
Audrey Stefanovich  
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### **Members of Esprit Orchestra performing this evening**

**Violin I**  
Anne Armstrong  
Laurel Mascarenhas  
Michael Sproule  
Janie Kim  
Ellen Farrugia  
Marie Berard

**Violin II**  
Jayne Maddison  
Paul Zevenhuizen  
Yakov Lerner  
Joanna Zabrowarna  
Parmela Attariwala  
Noel Laporte

**Viola**  
Douglas Perry  
Beverley Spotton  
Angela Rudden

**Cello**  
Paul Widner  
Elaine Thompson  
Maurizio Baccante  
Marianne Pack

**Bass**  
Robert Speer

**Esprit Orchestra Acknowledges the Following  
for Their Generous Support of Tonight's Event:**



The Canadian Film Centre  
Canadian German Chamber of Industry and Commerce Inc.  
Esprit Orchestra Musicians  
The Goethe Institute  
Scott Irvine  
Silke Iudelbach  
Judith Lander  
Lein Delicatessen Ltd.  
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Peter Sinclair  
Matthew Talbot-Kelly

**Event Committee**

Event Chair: David Novak

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**Volunteers**

Jenni-Leigh Girard  
Karen Huschilt  
Donna McMahon  
Sharon McMahon  
Sharon Wallace

